

THE GREAT STRIKES.

REVIEW OF THE CONTESTS BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Spartacus Was the Most Famous Striker of Ancient Times—Notable Struggles for Supremacy in England and America—The Luddites and Chartists.

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it is such a ticklish subject for the playwright to handle.

The strike is quite a modern affair. In the olden time the workmen were actually or virtually slaves. A strike was an insurrection, and insurrection meant death certainly and torture probably. Nevertheless, though they had no strikes, they got up some very respectable imitations, as for instance that of Spartacus.

With a motley army of gladiators and slaves he held the Romans at bay for two years, defeated four consular armies and only failed of final success because of the intractable nature of his troops. The French revolution first took active form in a strike. When the workmen in paper manufactories in Paris struck, early in 1789, a wealthy capitalist told them they could live as well as they deserved on fifteen cents a day. Thereupon they mobbed his works and burned them, and the example was contagious.

Labor movements in England are usually dated from Wat Tyler's rebellion. The movements of Jack Straw, John Ball and Jack Cade are also counted "labor troubles." During all the ages of despotism it was the custom to send such agitators and conspirators as were not executed to labor in the mines, and fugitives often went there for concealment. They continued their planning and plotting under ground, and the result was that the miners were first and most thoroughly organized of all laborers.

Thus did Gustavus Vasa organize the miners of Sweden who helped restore him to power. In England the miners of Cornwall were so early and so thoroughly organized that a Cornish mob was long a national terror. It is believed that some of these organizations centuries old continued with only a change of name till they became the Mollie Maguires of Pennsylvania. In 1850 the British parliament passed the famous "Statute of laborers"—the first of a long series of acts to prevent a rise in wages.

After the great plague, all old contracts being at an end and lands calling for cultivators, the wages of men rose 50 per cent, and those of women 100 per cent, in a few years. Then a long and in the end terrible struggle began. The first rage of laborers seems to have been directed against machinery, and the first sawmill set up in England was torn down by the whip sawyers. This movement against machines went to such lengths after the Napoleonic wars that it amounted to a rebellion, and 80,000 "Luddites" were in ranks at one time.

A half witted lad named Ludd, who had been teased by some boys, pursued them into a shop, where they took refuge behind a lace mill. In his rage he broke the machine to pieces, so the proprietor, in order to fill his contracts, had to re-employ the women who had been displaced by the new invention. Thereupon the other women of the lace district gathered in mobs and smashed the rest of the lace mills, the men followed it up on all machinery which had displaced their labor, and the once famous "Luddite war" was begun. One fact must be acknowledged—all the advance laborers have secured has been the result of their combining and resisting. It is humiliating, but it is a fact.

In 1834 the great strike of the London tailors occurred, but they were beaten. The next strike, in the Staffordshire potteries, was won by the men after a desperate struggle. The great Preston strike of 1853 attracted the attention of the world. Forty-nine cotton and other mills were closed, and before the strike ended 14,973 paupers were added to the list. The men were defeated.



THE DEATH OF SPARTACUS.

During all these years parliament was investigating and legislating, and the beneficent "factory acts" and colliery laws were passed. Women and boys under fourteen were no longer allowed to be put in the mines. Child labor was abolished in many trades and greatly limited in others. Wages rose slowly but steadily for twenty years, and the percentage of pauperism declined one-half.

Thomas Cooper, known as the "Last of the Chartists," died July last. In early life he was a prisoner in Stafford jail two years for advocating "The Charter," yet for the last twenty years of his life he had enjoyed far more privileges than he asked for at the start. At the time of the queen's jubilee it was estimated by the most conservative British statisticians that the common people were 30 per cent. better fed, 40 per cent. better clothed, 50 per cent. better housed

and 250 per cent. better educated than when Victoria was crowned.

Still there were strikes—of 40,000 colliers in 1867, of 60,000 Welsh laborers in 1873, of 50,000 Welsh miners in 1873, of 80,000 Lancashire spinners in 1876, of all the shipbuilders' workmen on the Clyde in 1877, and of 120,000 cotton spinners in 1878. In the spring of 1879 the famous strike of the Durham coal miners began, which was settled by arbitration. Without going into details of the hundreds of minor strikes it is sufficient to state the two important facts—the ratio of strikes in which the laborers succeeded has greatly increased while the hours of labor in the organized industries have been slightly diminished. Against this, as some workmen think, should be set the fact that by improved machinery the power of women to supplant men in manufacturing has enormously increased.

While the great Lancashire strike still lingered the attention of the world was suddenly called to the United States, where for about one month there raged the most extended and destructive labor war of this age. As the panic of 1873 caused all other panics to be forgotten or ignored, so the railroad riots of 1877 left all previous labor troubles in insignificance. For this cause doubtless the statement has crept into works meant to be historic that there were no strikes or labor troubles of consequence "before the war."

There were some even before the Revolution. After the Indians were finally subdued wages rose so rapidly that there was a loud call for legal interference. In New York they were 2½ times as high as in England, and in Massachusetts higher still. The shipbuilders of that colony formed the first trades union in America, and the colonial legislature promptly came down upon them with a statute regulating wages. It was forbidden in Newburyport to pay higher daily wages than to—carpenters, 5s. 4d. (\$1.23); calkers, 6s. (\$1.44); day laborers, 4s. (96 cents); masons, 6s. (\$1.44).

The laborers invented many ways to evade the law. Of course the trades unions were also political clubs, and there is a Boston tradition that the proposition to throw that famous tea overboard was first adopted at a meeting of ship carpenters.



THOMAS COOPER.

In 1803 the first recorded strike in the United States occurred—that of the sailors in New York city. The organizer was promptly sent to jail, and the men begged pardon and returned to their ships. In 1829 a laborers' party elected one Ebenezer Ford to the New York legislature. A motion to expel him as an "agrarian" was brought forward, but defeated. In 1836 there was a strike of tailors, whereupon twenty-one of them were arrested and fined \$100 each. Then the long agitation for the ten hour day began, and on the 10th of April, 1840, it was established in the navy yards by proclamation of President Van Buren.

In 1847 strikes first began to be recognized as fixed facts. There were many that year and the strikers were not often prosecuted. The ten hour day had become quite general by 1860. After the war the great labor agitation began on a systematic plan, and the panic of 1873 soon showed how thoroughly labor was organized. In a few weeks after Jay Cooke's failure every rolling mill from Pittsburgh to Cairo was idle, and in the Mahoning valley the situation was much like that of civil war. In 1874 strikes were the rule and continuous labor the exception in large sections of the country.

There was a slow improvement in the labor situation till in 1877 the Baltimore and Ohio railroad ordered a 10 per cent. reduction of wages to take effect on July 16. That was the signal for an explosion. As one man the railroad men revolted, and like a prairie fire the line of conflict ran over the country. In one week every city between the Hudson and Mississippi was in commotion. In another many of them were sprinkled with blood and a few scarred by fire. There was hard fighting at Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Chicago.

For ten days many cities and towns were completely isolated so far as trade was concerned. The workmen virtually took possession of the railroads in many places. An investigating committee reported the total losses at about 400 lives and \$100,000,000. All previous strikes were ignored, nor has there since been any year to at all compare with 1877. The strikes of this year are but small affairs in comparison. Workingmen have learned how to secure their rights peacefully. And let us hope that capitalists have also learned their lesson of humanity and moderation.

J. H. BEADLE.

A Recuperative "Napoleon of Finance."

Even Ferdinand Ward's meteoric career as a "Napoleon of Finance" was overshadowed by that of Henry S. Ives, who, still a very young man, has, it is declared, made another million of dollars. His failure a few years ago was one of the most disastrous on record; it was the collapse of a financial soap bubble. Ives was arrested and tried. The jury disagreed and he was released on bail, and then the indictments against him were quashed, and now he is again a rich man.



Willie Tillbrook
Son of

Mayor Tillbrook

of McKeesport, Pa., had a Scrofula bunch under one ear which the physician lanced and then it became a running sore, and was followed by erysipelas. Mrs. Tillbrook gave him

Hood's Sarsaparilla

the sore healed up, he became perfectly well and is now a lively, robust boy. Other parents whose children suffer from impure blood should profit by this example.

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An abstract of the Annual Report made January 1, 1892, to the Board of Control of the State of New Jersey, and filed in the Department of the Secretary of State in pursuance of law.

STATEMENT JANUARY 1, 1892.

RESOURCES.
Bonds and mortgages \$158,400 00
Real Estate 3,000 00
U. S. and other bonds 31,964 00
Interest due and accrued 4,040 00
Office furniture, etc. 500 00
Cash in bank and office 19,275 97
\$217,899 97

LIABILITIES.
Due depositors (including interest) .. \$200,367 94
Surplus 17,531 03
\$217,899 97

Interest is credited to depositors on the first days of January and July in each year for the three and six months then ending. Deposits made on or before the first business day in January, April, July, and October, bear interest from the first day of the month. All interest when credited at once becomes principal and bears interest accordingly.

JOSEPH H. DODD, Treasurer.